

## Press Release

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### **DHR suspends payments to new TEMHA applicants**

*Program projected to reach a \$5 million budget deficit by fiscal year's end*

Baltimore, MD (January 9, 2004) – With the Transitional Emergency Medical and Housing Assistance program projected to suffer a \$5 million shortfall, the Department of Human Resources has temporarily suspended payments to new applicants.

Without this action, the program would lose its ability to pay current recipients by the end of the fiscal year. The suspension will last through June 30.

Those applying for benefits through local departments of social services after December 15, 2003 will not receive cash payments. However, disabled and unemployed persons needing social services are encouraged to apply for benefits to determine if they are eligible for other state aid, including food stamps, medical assistance and pharmacy assistance. Applicants may receive assistance in applying for SSI benefits through the Disability Entitlement Advocacy Program (DEAP).

The current TEMHA recipients will continue to receive cash payments as long as they maintain program eligibility